

Standard Bank listing increased NSX market cap by N\$4.6 billion

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WINDHOEK – Standard Bank Namibia Holdings Limited’s listing on the Namibia Stock Exchange on Friday added more than 522 million shares to the local bourse and N\$4.65 billion in local market capitalisation.

Finance Minister Calle Schlettwein and Chief Executive of Africa Regions for Standard Bank Sola David-Borha rang the bell at exactly 09h00 on Friday morning to symbolise the start of the bank’s trading on the local bourse, with the bank’s staff in full attendance.

Also in attendance at the ringing of the bell were Standard Bank Namibia Board Chairperson Herbert Maier, as well as Chief Executive Vetumbuavi Mungunda, NSX Chairperson David Nuyoma and NSX Chief Executive Officer, Tiaan Bazuin.

To celebrate the occasion, the bank hosted a pre-listing dinner the night before Schlettwein officiated. He described the listing as a momentous occasion – not only

for the bank but also for its staff and a manifestation of a working Namibian economy.

“The sheer quantum of the Initial Public Offering (IPO) of 81 140 449 shares, valued at N\$722 million is a significant capitalisation and value creation in the domestic market,” the Minister observed.

He added that the listing and its over subscription are an expression of the strong confidence of Standard Bank in the domestic economy, on the back of its demonstrated business expansion and footprint spanning over 100 years as one of the countries’ oldest commercial banks.

“Equally, the empowerment stake to over 1 900 employees, which preceded the IPO action at the total initial value of N\$300 million, manifests the spirit of inclusive development and wealth creation locally,” Schlettwein stated.

The staff empowerment transaction, the largest such scheme in terms of transaction value, was concluded in 2015 and at the current listing price its value has increased by 48 percent to about N\$445 million.

Schlettwein added: “Increased investment in domestic economic activity resonates well with the national development agenda for inclusive and sustainable growth, an agenda which places the people at the centre of development, and an agenda which recognises that only inclusive growth is sustainable growth.”

The finance minister noted that the IPO was over-subscribed and said it is testimony that there are more than sufficient surplus savings looking for assets, adding that the opportunities with high returns do not only lie in the listed asset space. He observed that unlisted investments in the real and service sectors of the economy promise job creation opportunities and structural transformation of the economy.

Standard Bank Chief

Executive Vetumbuavi Mungunda expressed appreciation to Namibians who purchased a share in the company and thanked those who placed their trust in Standard Bank and their prosperity in the hands of the leadership of the bank. He said over 10 000 Namibians submitted 12 500 applications for shares in the bank.

“Listing of a company on a stock exchange is a commitment to a future, a promise to stakeholders; it is a sharing in the prospects with fellow citizens, and it is a commitment to transparency and openness. It means inclusiveness and a sense of belonging to all.”

Mungunda also announced that all Namibian individual and corporate applicants have been allocated all the shares they have applied for, whereas Namibian

institutions have been allocated 41.58 percent of the shares they have applied for, and non-Namibian institutions were allocated 20 percent of the shares they applied for.

“We have a responsibility as the current leadership and workforce of the bank to build on what was given to us by the previous generation, improve on it and leave it in a better and improved state. This is a responsibility we are acutely aware of and remind ourselves every day,” Mungunda implored.

Standard Bank Namibia shares started trading at N\$8.90 as soon as they debuted on the NSX on Friday morning.

Source: NEW ERA

<https://neweralive.na/posts/standard-bank-listing-increased-nsx-market-cap-by-n46-billion>